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SUMMARY

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation proposes to construct a median barrier and widen the inside shoulders on Route 1, between 0.3 kilometers south of Route 1/Route 68 junction and the Aguajito Road under-crossing (Post Miles 74.93 to 77.38).

The project will place a double thrie beam median barrier in the median throughout the job except at one location. *(Thrie beam [or single thrie beam] is a standard Caltrans median barrier composed of 12 gauge triple corrugated galvanized steel beam mounted on wood posts and blocks. The top of the element is 820 mm above the ground surface at the face of the barrier. A double thrie beam is a corrugated galvanized steel beam mounted on both sides of the wood posts. See figure A on page iv for an illustration and on pgs. 5, 6, and 9, for photo-illustrations*). From the Aguajito Road Undercrossing to approximately 2,380 feet south, it is proposed to place two rows of single thrie beam to preserve the existing vegetation. All other undercrossings will have a standard envelope. (A '*standard envelope*' *[at either one or both ends of a bridge structure] consists of two single thrie beam barriers starting from both sides of a bridge structure and continuing in the median to a point approximately 130 feet out from the bridge, where both single thrie beam barriers join to form one double thrie beam. See figures B and C on pgs. v and vi for illustrations)*. The existing pine trees around the Route 68/1 separation will be preserved by modifying the existing thrie beam envelope at this location.

In addition to the above improvements, there are various other locations outside the median area that will be improved. Some of these include upgrading bridge approach guardrails, replacing non-standard dikes, and replacing lined ditches with buried pipe.

Purpose and Need

The existing median within the project limits does not contain a barrier to prevent vehicles from crossing the median and colliding with opposing traffic. The 1997 Median Barrier Monitoring System Report indicates that this section of freeway meets volume/median width criteria for a median barrier.

Projects Alternatives

Six alternatives for the median construction were considered early in the project development. The three alternatives which include a concrete median barrier were dropped from consideration because of visual aesthetic concerns from the City of Monterey. This section of the freeway is within the City's Highway One Scenic Corridor. The remaining three thrie beam median barrier alternatives are discussed in this environmental document.

No-Build Alternative

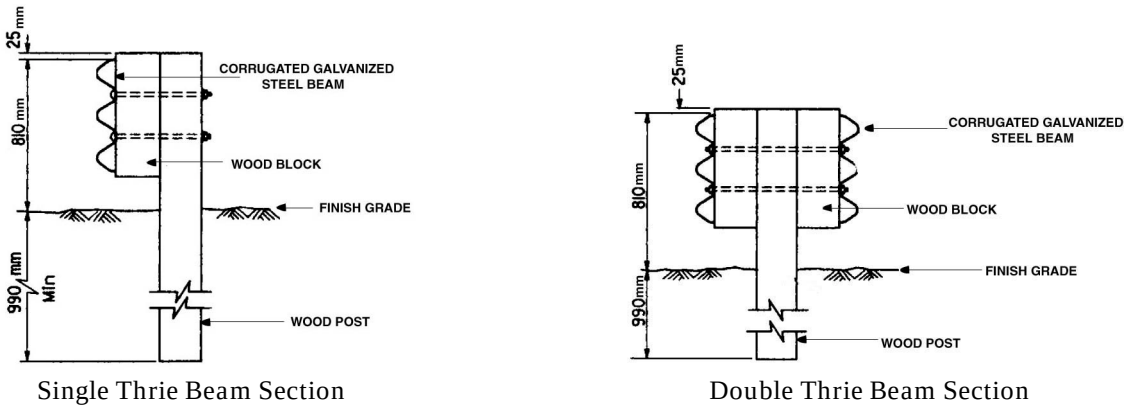
The No-Build alternative would not meet the project purpose and need.

Preferred Alternative

The double thrie beam median barrier and widen the inside shoulders.

Environmental Consequences and Mitigation

Construction of this project would have only visual impacts.



Single Thrie Beam Section

Double Thrie Beam Section

Figure A. Thrie beam barrier (single and double) cross sections.